Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Tuesday 26 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Wednesday 27 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Monday 25 Jan 2021 at 12:14

Confidence: High for Tuesday and Wednesday. Lower confidence for snow level on Thursday and Friday with some uncertainty in the progress of milder air moving north over the UK.

Headline for Tuesday 26 Jan 2021: Dry start but sleet or snow spreading east. Severe wind chill on the tops.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 26 Jan 2021

Blizzards
Low Likelihood

Heavy Snow
Medium Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
No Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Fog
Precipitation probability							
10%	10%	10%	20%	70%	>95%	>95%	50%

Forecast for Tuesday 26 Jan 2021

Weather: Dry start with a widespread frost. Thickening cloud with outbreaks of sleet or snow spreading east by late morning, but falling as rain below 200m. Rain, sleet or snow turning heavy for a few hours in the afternoon but will ease during the evening and turn to rain at all levels as milder air arrives from the southwest.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 70% early morning but becoming less than 10% by afternoon.

Visibility: Very good at most elevations at first with patchy cloud above 600m. Becoming very poor by early afternoon with extensive cloud cover above 200 or 300m. Low cloud and snow will make navigation very difficult on high slopes. White out conditions over snow cover.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 26 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	17/21 W	17/21 SW	16/20 SW	15/20 S	23/30 S	24/32 SE	17/24 SE	17/21 S	19/25 SW
600	15/21 W	13/18 SW	12/17 SW	13/19 S	21/30 S	23/33 SE	15/22 S	11/16 S	14/22 SW
300	4/15 W	5/15 SW	4/14 SW	4/13 S	9/22 S	9/24 SE	8/18 S	4/12 S	6/18 SW
Valley	4/13 W	4/13 W	3/11 SW	5/12 SE	8/18 SE	9/21 SE	5/14 SE	2/7 S	5/12 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-10	-3/-10	-2/-9	-2/-9	-3/-10	-2/-10	-1/-8	-0/-6	0/-5
600	-1/-7	-1/-7	-1/-6	-1/-6	-1/-8	-1/-8	-0/-6	0/-4	2/-3
300	1/-2	1/-2	1/-1	1/-2	1/-4	0/-4	1/-3	1/-1	2/-0
Valley	3/2	3/1	3/1	3/1	3/-0	2/-2	3/0	3/2	4/2
Freezing Level*	500m	600m	600m	600m	500m	400m	900m	1200m	1100m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Conditions deteriorating as sleet or snow arrives with difficult navigation conditions and a severe wind chill at height.

Forecast for Wednesday 27 Jan 2021

Weather: Dull and cloudy with patchy light rain, falling as snow above 900m but not amounting to much. A little brightness possible over northern and eastern fells in the afternoon. Rain will spread in from the southwest late in the evening, preceded by snow on the tops.

Maximum wind: Southeast 10-15mph, increasing to 20mph gusts 30mph in the evening.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 10% at first becoming 60% in afternoon.

Visibility: Extensive cloud above 400m at first, lifting to around 700m and perhaps clearing northern and eastern fells in the afternoon. Generally rather hazy below the cloud.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2C rising to 6 or 7C.
At 800m: 0 or Plus 1C.
Freezing level: 1000-1200m.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Monday 25 January 2021. Location: Helvellyn summit at 13:30. Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally to where they live. The main feature of today was the amount of snow being redistributed around the fells by the fresh westerly winds. The snow cover is now very variable with westerly aspects being scoured and deep drifts and wind slab developing behind features, in hollows and sheltered spots and on generally easterly aspects. The exit slopes to Striding Edge were a serious proposition today with lots of unstable soft snow and windslab being laid down beneath a steep cornice. Any tracks from the weekend have disappeared beneath the drifting snow. If you do decide to attempt this or similar slopes then careful route choice staying on or close to rocks as much as possible will be key. A simple slip or slide here would potentially take you into steep and rocky terrain below with serious consequences. The drifting snow will also make navigation trickier especially when the cloud is down. Please don't rely on following summer paths or footsteps as they may not be visible. Striding and Swirral Edges are both a mixture of soft snow, rime ice, sheet ice and bare rock. The ridge crest was the easiest option today as many of the easier options on the flanks were banked out with drifted snow. Large cornices are continuing to build above NE through SE aspects and are now a considerable hazard to walkers and climbers. The cornices above the east face of Helvellyn i.e. right next to the summit trig point are 2-3m. Please give them a wide berth and advise others with less experience to do likewise. Areas which have been scoured such as the Helvellyn plateau are a mixture of old icy snow, rime ice and frozen ground. Additionally many of the paths are becoming icier underfoot as the snow is compressed beneath walkers' feet. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Although the snowpack is currently mainly soft, for those venturing above the snowline an ice axe and crampons are essential. A simple slip on the Helvellyn Edges or other exposed terrain could have very serious consequences without the means to quickly stop your slide. Even on the so called "easy" route up Helvellyn from Swirls, Thirlmere there is a large area of unavoidable, steep, hard icy snow to cross. Goggles were also very useful to combat the copious amounts of spindrift. Please be conservative with your plans and know your limits. Temperature: minus 2.6 C, Maximum wind speed 27.2 mph, Wind chill: minus 12.7 C, Average wind speed: 22.7 mph.

Issued at: 1630 on Mon 25 Jan 2021

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